## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA Newport News Division

A FILED

AUG - 7 2019

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORFOLK, VA

THADDIUS A. JOHNSON, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

AIR & LIQUID SYSTEMS CORPORATION, Successor by Merger to BUFFALO PUMPS, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Civil No. 4:18cv132

PATRICK A. LAUGHLIN, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

AIR & LIQUID SYSTEMS CORPORATION, Successor by Merger to BUFFALO PUMPS, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Civil No. 4:18cv134

## **ORDER**

This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiffs' Motion to Substitute a Proper Party Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 25(a). ECF No. 145. Plaintiffs' Motion to Substitute is **GRANTED**.

This is a consolidated general maritime case brought against numerous Defendants wherein Plaintiffs allege damage caused by Defendants' failure to warn of the hazards of their asbestoscontaining products.

On May 8, 2019, Plaintiff Thaddius A. Johnson passed away. ECF No. 147-1. On June

20, 2019, Plaintiff Andrea E. Johnson was appointed the Personal Representative of his Estate by

the Circuit Court for Pinellas County, Florida. ECF No. 147-2. On July 17, 2019, Jennifer W.

Stevens was appointed the Ancillary Administrator of Thaddius Johnson's Estate by the Newport

News Circuit Court. ECF No. 147-3. Plaintiffs have moved to substitute Andrea Johnson and

Jennifer Stevens in place of the decedent. Defendants have not filed opposition briefs and the time

for doing so has passed.

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 25(a)(1) provides that "[i]f a party dies and the claim is

not extinguished, the court may order substitution of the proper party." Mr. Johnson's claims

survive his death under general maritime law. See Greene v. Vantage Steamship Corp., 466 F.2d

159, 166 & n.9 (4th Cir. 1972); Boykin v. Bergesen D.Y. A/S, 822 F. Supp. 324, 327 (E.D. Va.

1993). Accordingly, it is appropriate to order substitution of the proper party.

It is hereby ORDERED that "Andrea E. Johnson, Individually and as Personal

Representative of the Estate of Thaddius A. Johnson, Deceased" and "Jennifer W. Stevens, as

Ancillary Administrator of the Estate of Thaddius A. Johnson, Deceased" be substituted in place

of "Thaddius A. Johnson." This case remains consolidated with case number 4:18cv134 under

case number 4:18cv132.

The Clerk shall forward a copy of this Order to all counsel of record.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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